

CLAIMS:

1. A method of preparing an imadizolium salt comprising:

(a) synthesizing a diimine compound; and

(b) subjecting the diimine compound to ring closure conditions.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the diimine compound is from the group consisting of 1, 3, diaryldiazabutadiene, 1, 3, dialkyldiazabutadiene, and 1, 3, arylalkyldiazabutadiene; and

paraformaldehyde and a protic acid provide the ring closure conditions.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the diimine compound is 1.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the diimine compound is 3.

5. The method of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the diimine compound is subjected to ring closure conditions at or below room temperature.

6. The method of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the salt includes a counterion.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the counterion is determined by the acid used for ring closure.

8. The method of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the diimine compound is synthesized at room temperature.

9. The method of any one of claims 1-8, wherein between steps (a) and (b) the diimine compound is mixed with a solvent from the group consisting of: methanol, ethyl acetate, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran, and toluene.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the synthesis of the diimine compound and the ring closure are carried out in air.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-10, wherein no solvent pre-drying steps are performed.

12. The salt prepared by the method of claim 2 when the diimine compound is 1, 3, arylalkyldiazabutadiene.

13. The salt prepared by the method of claim 4 or any preceding claim depending directly or indirectly on claim 4.

14. The imadizolium salt 1,3-Bis(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)imidazolium chloride.

15. The invention of any prior claim, wherein the protic acid is HCl, HBF₄, or HPF₆.

16. The invention of any prior claim, wherein the protic acid is HCl.

17. The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent is ethyl acetate.

5 18. A method of preparing an imadizolium salt comprising:

(a) providing a diimine compound from the group consisting of **1** and **3**;

(b) mixing the diimine compound with a solvent from the group consisting of: methanol, ethyl acetate, ethanol, tetrahydrofuran, and toluene; and

10 (c) at or below room temperature, mixing the diimine compound and solvent with paraformaldehyde and a protic acid .

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the diimine compound is **1** and the salt is **2**.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the diimine compound is **3** and the salt is **4**.

15 21. The invention(s) substantially as shown and/or described herein.